

II. WOODLAND

II.B.2.N.a. Lowland or submontane cold-deciduous woodland

II.B.2.N.a.24. *QUERCUS RUBRA*–*QUERCUS PRINUS* WOODLAND ALLIANCE

Northern Red Oak–Rock Chestnut Oak Woodland Alliance

Hopewell Furnace name: [Birch Rocky Slope Woodland](#)

Concept: This alliance includes woodland communities occurring on acidic, talus slopes or rocky slopes of higher elevations (e.g., from 1000–2620 feet in New England and to 4500 feet in West Virginia). Soils are shallow and acidic. *Quercus rubra* is sometimes dominant but usually occurs in association with *Quercus alba*, *Acer rubrum*, *Betula lenta*, *Quercus prinus*, and others. Canopies are often stunted. The shrub layer may include, in the northern part of the range, *Acer spicatum*, *Sambucus racemosa* var. *racemosa* (= *Sambucus racemosa* ssp. *pubens*), *Rhus typhina*, *Kalmia latifolia*, and *Hamamelis virginiana*, while in the southern part of the range, *Rhododendron catawbiense*, *Rhododendron arborescens*, *Rhododendron calendulaceum*, *Rhododendron maximum*, *Menziesia pilosa*, *Gaylussacia ursina*, *Leucothoe recurva*, *Vaccinium simulatum*, and *Viburnum nudum* var. *cassinoides* are more typical. Herbs include *Pteridium aquilinum* var. *latiusculum*, *Aralia nudicaulis*, *Maianthemum canadense*, *Oclemena acuminata* (= *Aster acuminatus*), *Corydalis sempervirens*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Carex pensylvanica*, and *Polypodium virginianum*. Communities of this alliance are known from the Appalachian Mountains, from New York and New England, south to the Blue Ridge of North Carolina.

Range: Communities of this alliance are known from the Appalachian Mountains, from New York and New England, south to the Blue Ridge of North Carolina. This alliance is found in Connecticut, Georgia, North Carolina, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia, and possibly South Carolina (?).

States/Provinces: CT GA MA MD? ME NC NH NY PA SC? TN VA VT WV

Federal Lands: NPS (Acadia); USFS (Chattahoochee, George Washington, Jefferson, Nantahala, Pisgah)

Synonymy: Chestnut Oak: 44, in part (Eyre 1980); Northern Red Oak: 55, in part (Eyre 1980); Circumneutral Rocky Summit/Rock Outcrop (Swain and Kearsley 2001); Acidic Talus Forest / Woodland (Swain and Kearsley 2001); Oak–Hemlock–White Pine Forest (Swain and Kearsley 2001); Dry oak–heath woodland (Fike 1999); Ridgetop Dwarf-tree Forest, in part (Smith 1991)

References: Eyre 1980, Fike 1999, Smith 1991, Swain and Kearsley 2001

Authors: ECS, RW, East

Identifier: A.624

Hopewell Furnace Name: Modified Successional Woodland
(No assigned NVCS alliance; Park-specific type)